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Pinochet's Actions Upset Colleagues In Chilean Junta

Chile.: President Pinochet's penchant for making decisions on his own is aggravating relationships within the ruling military junta. A real rift does not appear likely, but the President's handling of difficult problems facing the government could provoke continuing criticism by his associates.

Pinochet has antagonized the three other junta members before, but his failure to consult with them recently on major decisions, such as his cancellation of a UN fact-finding team's scheduled visit, has caused resentments to flare anew.

The Chilean leader apparently is aware of the friction and may take steps to reduce it. For the most part, the other service chiefs agree on basic government policies and would not risk a split over individual issues or personal rivalry with the President. Objections are more likely to be directed at the President's go-it-alone attitude than at the actual decisions he makes.

If Pinochet can show some successes in his economic and foreign policies, he will probably have little trouble keeping the other junta members behind him.

Pinochet [redacted] is considering the release of imprisoned Communist Party leader Luis Corvalan as a means of offsetting the bad press from his decision to keep the UN mission out of Santiago. This would not help much, however. [redacted]

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